

The Call of Christ

Matthew 9:9-13

Introduction:

- Jesus did NOT come into the world to c_____ it (Jn 3:17a)
 1. All the world has s_____ against God
 2. Therefore, the world was already c_____
- Jesus came into the world to s_____ it from condemnation (Jn 3:17b)
 1. This requires Him to bring people into a r_____ relationship with God
 2. The involves Him personally c_____ people to follow Him.
- The call of Christ:

Is an undeserved gift (9)

- Jesus called Matthew to follow Him
 1. The name Matthew means “g_____ of the Lord”
 - a. His name was originally L_____
 - b. Matthew was his n_____
 2. Matthew was a tax collector for the R_____ government.
 - a. Tax collectors were given the power to set any r_____ they wanted as long as the government got its quota.
 - b. Tax collectors were w_____ because they overcharged the Jewish people.
 - c. Tax collectors were Jews, but were considered to be o_____ the kingdom of God.
 3. Matthew did not d_____ to be called by Jesus
- How does Christ personally call us to follow Him today?
 1. It is a c_____ calling (Jn 15:16 – He chooses us)
 2. It is through the g_____ message (1Pet 2:9; 2Thess 2:14)
- Have you thanked Jesus for His gift to you?

Is without discrimination (10,11)

- Matthew threw an open-house party for Jesus (Lk 5:29), which attracted various groups
 1. Tax collectors
 2. S_____ - those who made a living that compromised the Law of Moses (e.g. prostitutes, pig farmers)

3. D_____ - in this context, they were His closest followers and by this time included Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Nathanael.
 4. P_____ - a Jewish sect who held to the letter of the Law of Moses as well as to traditional rules which insured against the remote possibility of breaking God's laws (e.g. no s_____ on the ground on the Sabbath; a woman cannot look in a m_____ on the Sabbath).
- The Pharisees criticize Jesus for e_____ with tax collectors and sinners.
 1. Jesus responds by saying that the s_____ need a doctor.
 - a. The sick - _____
 - b. The doctor - _____
 2. Jesus ministered to all g_____ of people in order to bring them to a right relationship with God (rich and poor, the religious and outcasts, young and old, men and women, etc). He did not discriminate.
 - The h_____ of the gospel is to save people from all walks of life.
 1. Matt 28:18 – make disciples of all the n_____ (ethnos)
 2. Matt 24:14 – the g_____ must be preached to all the nations (ethnos) before Jesus returns.
 3. Jn 10:16 – Jesus will unite His folds of sheep into one f_____
 4. Rev 5:9,10 – envisions Jesus effectively purchasing with His b_____ people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and class.
 5. Rev 7:9 – envisions people from every walk of life w_____ before the throne of God.
 - We must not discriminate in s_____ the gospel with others
 1. The religious – Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Hindus, Moslems, witches, etc.
 2. The outcasts – criminals, homosexuals, transvestites, etc.
 3. "Normal" people

Is to the sinner (12,13)

- Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6
 1. He tells the Pharisees to go and l_____ what this passage means.
 - a. The passage was written to N. Israel who kept the sacrificial laws but had no m_____ toward others.

- b. The Pharisees kept the letter of the Law, but had no m_____ toward those who did not measure up to their standards.
 2. What good is it to do the rituals, if it does not transfer into relating rightly with our fellowman?
- Jesus explains that He came not to call the righteous but the sinners.
 1. The righteous – those who think they are okay because of what they do (s_____ - righteous)
 2. The sinners – those who know they are not okay because of what they've done.
 - Before anyone can come to Christ, they must first realize that they are a s_____ and are in need of Christ to bring them into a right relationship with God.

Conclusion:

- What demonstrates that you are grateful for Jesus calling you? (remember His call to follow Him is an undeserved gift)
- What are you doing to extend the gospel to people from ALL walks of life? (praying, giving, and sharing)
- Have you come to a point in your life where you have realized you are a sinner and are in need of Christ in bringing you into a right relationship with God?